

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference 196 24 977.5 | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) | |
| International application No. PCT/EP97/02167 | International filing date (day/month/year) 26 April 1997 (26.04.1997) | Priority date (day/month/year) 22 June 1996 (22.06.1996) |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B07C 3/20 | | |
| Applicant SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT et al | | |

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| 1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. |
| 2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of <u>17</u> sheets. |
| 3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application |

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|---|---|
| Date of submission of the demand 14 November 1997 (14.11.1997) | Date of completion of this report 21 September 1998 (21.09.1998) |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP European Patent Office D-80298 Munich, Germany Facsimile No. 49-89-2399-4465 | Authorized officer Telephone No. 49-89-2399-0 |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP97/02167

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.):

- ☐ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description, pages _____, as originally filed,
 pages _____, filed with the demand,
 pages 1-14, filed with the letter of 14 May 1998 (14.05.1998),
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the claims, Nos. _____, as originally filed,
 Nos. _____, as amended under Article 19,
 Nos. _____, filed with the demand,
 Nos. 1-14, filed with the letter of 14 May 1998 (14.05.1998),
 Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the drawings, sheets/fig 1-3, as originally filed,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the demand,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____.

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/EP 97/02167

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims | 1 - 14 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims | 1 - 14 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 1 - 14 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |

2 Citations and explanations**Novelty/Inventive step**

1. Claims 1 and 13 are distinguished from the closest prior art known from EP-A-589 119 by the characterizing features.
2. These features solve the problem of fast automatic registration, within a given time, of address data which have not been registered during the OCR and during the video coding.
3. None of the documents cited in the international search report shows or suggests these features. Claims 1 and 13 therefore comply with the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).
4. Claims 2 - 12 and 14 pertain to preferred embodiments of the process according to Claim 1 and of the device according to Claim 13, respectively, and therefore they, too, comply with the above-mentioned requirements.
5. The process and device are industrially applicable.

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

Other defects

6. Figure 3 contains text which is not in the language of the proceedings (DE) but in the English language.
7. In Figure 3, a reference sign 305 is used for a memory, which is not mentioned anywhere in the description (PCT Rule 11.13(1)).

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

8. The description, page 7, end of the second paragraph, mentions the offer of a number of alternatives to the operator, **after** the decision in 320 has turned out to be negative. According to Figure 3, however, this offer is already made prior to this decision 320, namely in block 310, which follows immediately after the "No" decision in 300.

In addition, it is not clear what purpose the memory 305 serves. Or does this memory exist for the purpose of representing the total stock of addresses from which the possible addresses are taken?